

1941

BRITISH EMBASSY.
BAGDAD.

File No.:

213

Name of File:—

IRAN - IRAQ

RELATIONS

(No minutes to be written here.)

LAST Year's File No.

319

NEXT Year's File No.

Iran - Iraq Relations . 213/10/41

● Copy with Compliments to G.O.C. 18/11/41.
(213/10/41)

2

Sen. 18/11/41.

18th November, 1941.

W. Bullard

213/7/41

I have delayed replying to your letter of October 3rd about the possibility of pro-Arab propaganda being spread in Arabistan from Iraq in order to make enquiries from Basra.

213/9/41

2. I now enclose a copy of a letter from Weld Forester to Holt to which I have nothing to add. The best remedy for such separatist ideas as may exist in either Persian Khudistan or Arabistan is obviously for the Persian Government to establish a standard of administration which will not cause their people to look enviously at their neighbours across the border in Iraq and to judge from what I see of Iraqi administration this should not be too difficult a task, even for the Persians.

(Sd.) Kinahan Cornwallis

(Sd.) Kinahan Cornwallis

218/11

VH/KC

SIR READER W. BULLARD, K.C.M.G., C.I.B.

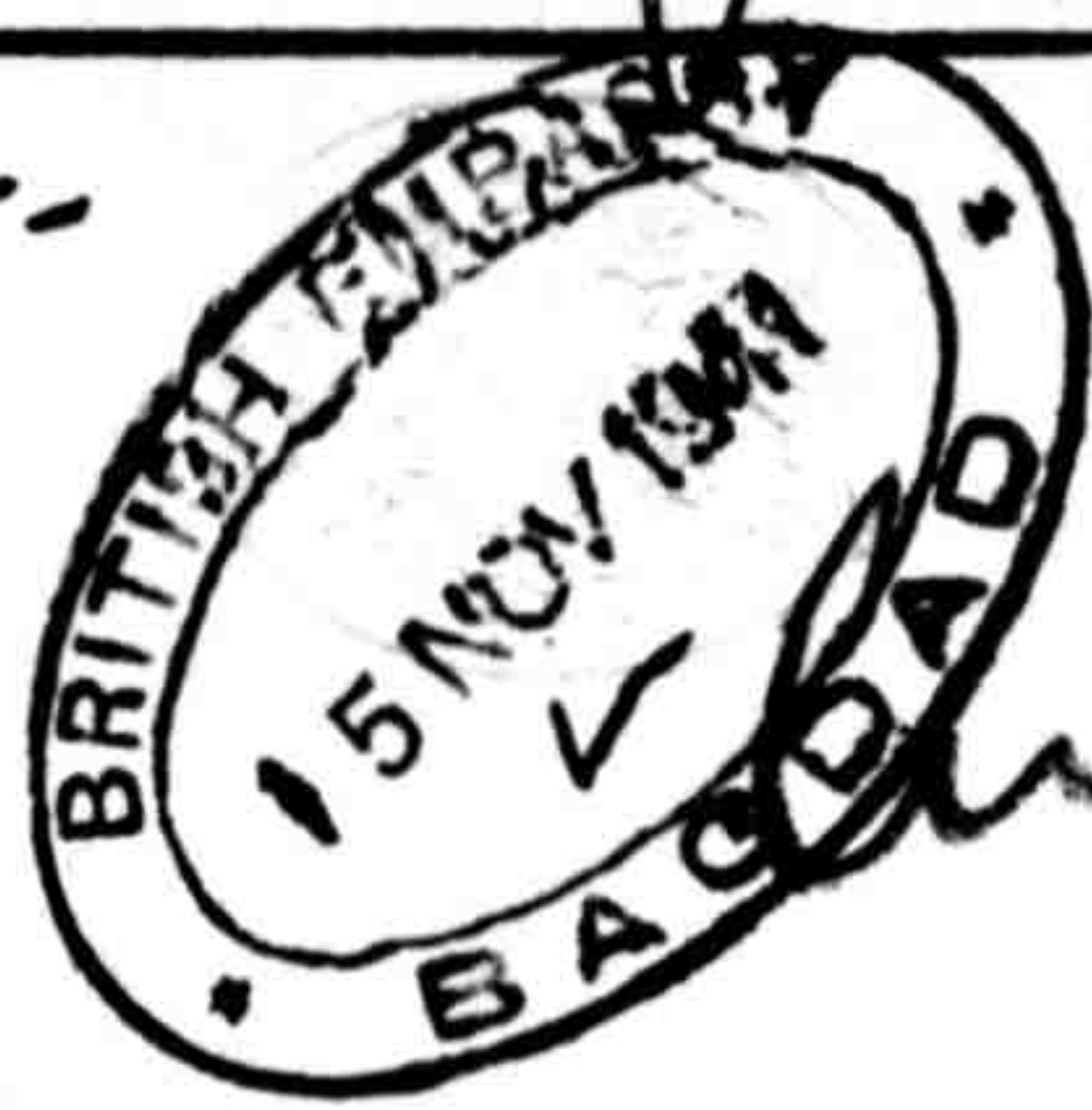
INDEX

Iran - Iraq
Secret

213/9/41.

3

No. 3495.
(5/7/19C)



BRITISH CONSULATE,

BASRA,

8th November, 1941.

Dear Holt-

Your 213/8/41 to Sarell -

355/13/41 }

Since writing his despatch No. 30 of 9th October he has been trying to find out the extent of Khaza'li intrigues in Khuzistan. The truth is hard to establish and the brothers are always anxious to blacken Chassib, and vice versa.

The latter was unquestionably endeavouring to carry on separatist propoganda among the arabs of Khuzistan, but swears that he has dropped it completely since Sarell warned him. He has been several times denounced by his brothers since then but has been most vigorous in his protestations of innocence. In any case I am satisfied that he has not been to Khuzistan lately.

I am not however satisfied with the behaviour of the Khaza'li brothers in general and they are undoubtedly still intriguing in spite of warnings. Abdul Aziz recently slipped across the river at Seeba and according to Daubeney held a meeting of some dozen Sheikhs in one of the Khaza'li houses in Khorramshahr. Although I have not yet been able to find out exactly what passed it can only have been political in purpose. I do not think however that they have made any attempt to enlist the sympathies of the Iraqi Government on their side. This would hardly fit in with their own aims and objects. I doubt if the Iraqi Government for their part would use any member of the family except as a stool pigeon should there ever be any serious thought of endeavouring to annexe Khuzistan.

I will continue to collect any available information on this question and will write again should I hear anything definite and concrete.

The/

PTO.

Capt. Vyvian Holt, CMG., MVO.,
British Embassy,
B A G D A D.

The frontier was until recently wholly uncontrolled. Colonel Sargon was exercising a check on Basrawis by an arrangement with the passport authorities whereby he countersigned all exit visas granted by the Iraqis for the Persian frontier. This was however a very imperfect control and anyone who wished could slip across the river at numerous points without any trouble. The Persian passport control has been re-introduced and is probably as effective now as it was in the past but this is not saying a great deal. The Military and Naval authorities and anyone accompanying them are of course subject to no control at all. Chassib was recently invited by a junior army officer to accompany him as guide, but Sarell heard of it and took steps to prevent it.

Yours sincerely,

Kodtan Weld-Inshi

Iran - Iraq

213/8/41

Copy GOC with 213/7/41. 10/10/41.
(213/8/41)

British Embassy,

4

Bagdad.

10th October, 1941.

Dear Sarell,

—/7/—

In a letter to the Ambassador Sir Reader Bullard asks the following three questions :-

(1) Is pro-Arab propaganda being spread from Iraq in Persian Arabistan (Khuzistan) ?

(2) Has Chassib Khazal been going round Khuzistan recently urging people to request the Iraqi Government to make him Governor ?

(3) Is it true that there are no longer any restrictions on travellers from Basra into Iran and vice-versa ?

The Ambassador will be grateful for any information that you may be able to give him which will help him to reply to these questions.

Yours sincerely,

VH
RK
VH

See also
R. F. G. SARELL, ESQ.
15.355/41.

Handwritten signature

H.E.

I think we must make enquiries from Basra before a satisfactory reply can be sent to Sir Read Bullard.

I attach a draft which I suggest I should send to the Acting Consul.

Approved H.E. 10

[Signature]

7/10/41

Copy 2 H.E. 10 to Sec.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

213 Iran - Iraq Relations

213/7/41

6

copy sent to
G.O.C. with - 8 -

From Cornwallis

British Legation,
Tehran,
3rd October 1941.

Since the Iranians believe that we are favouring a Kurdish movement against the Iranian Government (at least, many of them do), and that the Khan of Kelat is meditating an armed attack on Iranian Baluchistan, it is not surprising that it should also be stated here that propaganda instigated from Iraqi sources is being spread in Khuzistan, against the Iranian Government and in favour of the Arabs. It has never occurred to any Iranian to ask whether the Kurds and the Arabs have not legitimate grievances against the Iranian Government. Nevertheless it is undesirable that anything should be done or allowed by us or our friends that would weaken the Iranian Government, since we still desire that Iran should exist as a buffer state and a weak buffer isn't much good, and I shall therefore be grateful if you would let me know whether you think there is anything in the accusation that pro-Arab propaganda is being spread from Iraq.

2. The Minister for Foreign Affairs told me recently that Chasib was said to be going round Khuzistan urging people to request the Iranian Government to make him governor. If Chasib never does anything worse than that he can be considered a reformed character, but I think it likely that he has not been in Khuzistan at all since the British occupation.

3. Another complaint is that there are no longer any restrictions on travellers from Basra into Iran and vice-versa. What it means, I suppose, is that the military authorities naturally impose their own restrictions and that the Iranian officials are not free to do as they like in the matter. However, I am sending a copy of this letter to King, His Majesty's Consul at Ahwaz, and I enclose a spare copy for the G.O.C. Iraq.



Sir K. Cornwallis, K.C.M.G.
C.B.E., D.S.O.,
BAGHDAD.

See also

F. 355/44.

Yours sincerely
R. J. Burrows

Iran - Iraq

213/6/41

(213/6/41)

British Embassy,

also at 262/70/41

Bagdad.

8th October, 1941.

Dear Edmonds,

-/5/- Your P.S.NO. 376 of October 5th.

The Ambassador is of the opinion that it is for the Iraqi Government in the first instance to take up with the Persian Government the question of grazing facilities for the Pani Lam in Persia.

When they decide to take this step His Excellency will be willing to inform His Majesty's Minister at Tehran and to ask him to use his good offices to push the matter if he sees no objection.

It may also be possible to include a reference to the Pani Lam grazing needs in the review of the position of Persian tribal chiefs in Iraq which is now being prepared for Sir Reader Bullard and to enquire from him whether he will be able and willing to help in such matters.

Yours sincerely,

(SIGNED) V. HOLT

VH
Rk.
VH

C. J. EDMONDS, ESQ., C.M.G., C.B.E.

• He

We seem to be in
 some danger of
 taking over Iraq-Persian
 relations.

Wouldn't it be better
 for the Iraqi Legation
 to be instructed to take up
 these matters with the
 Persian Government? Con
 6/10 Vth

05.

Yes his longi. cont. should
take him up. At the same time
I see no objection, when they have
decided to do so, to Sir R. Bullock
being informed by letter & asked to
use his good offices to push the
matter if he sees no objection.
There will probably be other reports of this
sort. & in our letter concerning the list
of American members, we might explain
the whole situation & ask him whether
he will be able & willing to help
in such matters. I hope he will be as
unambiguously fair & honest by
such an instance -

W

7.10

Baghdad the 5th October 1941

P.S. No. 376

My Dear Sir,

Iran - Iraq Relations
also at 262/67/41.

213/5/41

البغداد

وزارة الداخلية

بغداد



I have been approached by several shaikhs of the Bani Lam, Shaikh Abdul Hasan of the Al Hamad section at Tirsakh (half way between Mandali and Badra) on the North and Shaikh Shabib of the Amara region, ^{asking} whether it would be possible to arrange for them to resume their old custom of grazing across the border into Persia during the late autumn and the winter on payment of a reasonable grazing fee; this pleasant custom, profitable for both sides, has ceased for some years owing to the centralizing policy of the late Shah and the desire of the amniya to seize all sheep that came across the border.

You may remember that years ago the High Commission made an arrangement with the Wali of Pusht-i-Kuh whereby the Iraqi Government paid a sum (I think it was 750 liras but of course cannot be sure after all these years) yearly against which all Bani Lam were allowed to graze on that side of the boundary without further fee.

I only mention that as an example, but I think we might reasonably try to see if we cannot get back to the common sense methods of the old days before super-nationalism upset everything; in this case simple permission for sheep to graze for a small fee.

I suppose that the formal approach must come eventually from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, but perhaps the point might be put by you to Tehran, as the question of the tribal chiefs was. I think that we on our side can do a lot in present circumstances to get rid of all these tiresome problems by giving advice in the right quarters and so preparing the ground.

captain V. Holt., C.M.G., M.V.O.

Yours sincerely,

P. J. [Signature]

Iran - Iraq Relations

213/4/41

COPY OF TELEGRAM.

CODE.

10

From H.M. AMBASSADOR,
BAGDAD.

To Foreign Office, London.

Date 16th June, 1941.

No. 589

Time despatched 11.40 hrs.

Addressed to Foreign Office No. 589, repeated
to Tehran No. 115, Cairo No. 274, India No. 222 and
Jerusalem No. 54/saving (en clair by bag).

My telegram No. 583.

Minister for Foreign Affairs told me yesterday
that he had now telegraphed a message of good will
to Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Saadabad Governments.

CORNWALLIS.

VH/KC
AHM
IY
RK

INDEX

Iran-Iraq Relations 213/3/41.
COPY OF TELEGRAM. 11

From H.M. AMBASSADOR,
BAGDAD.

To.....Foreign Office.....

Date 15th June, 1941.....

No.....583.....

Time despatched.....23.25.....

Addressed to F.O. No. 583 Important

Repeated to Tehran No. 114

Cairo No. 273

India No. 221

Jerusalem No. 52 Saving (en clair by bag)

Your telegram No. 468.

213/2/41 {

M.F.A. has seen the Iranian Minister here with regard to the refugees and some days ago instructed his Charge d'Affaires at Tehran to approach the Iranian Government. The agreement of the latter to the appointment of Daud Pasha al Haidari was received by the M.F.A. this morning and it is expected that the appointment will be announced tomorrow. I impressed upon the M.F.A. how important it was that the new Minister should proceed to Tehran at once and he promised that there would be no undue delay. I also spoke to him, not for the first time, about the necessity of improving relations between Iran and Iraq. He is well disposed towards Iran and promised to send a cordial letter from the Iraq Government with Daud Pasha. It appears that it is not the normal practice for a new M.F.A. to send messages of greeting to other signatories of the Saadabad Pact. I pointed out that after recent events it seemed very desirable to do so. The M.F.A. agreed but said he thought he should consult his colleagues before coming to a decision.

KC
EVB/RND
NP
TU

INDEX

Iran-Iraq Relations 213/2/41.

12

TELEGRAM.

Cypher

~~Code~~ XX

~~Clear~~ XX

From:— Foreign Office London To:—HM Ambassador Bagdad

Despatched 13.6.41 (1600) Received 14.6.41 (1430)
Decyphered (2010)

No. 468 of 13.6.41

rptd to Addressed to BAGDAD NO. 468,
Tehran No. 280,
Cairo No. 2024,
India No. 6768,
Jerusalem No. 1069.
Tehran telegram No. 325 and your telegram No. 539

I am glad to hear Iraqi Government are now taking up question of refugees with Iranian Government. It is very important to keep them up to the mark on this.

2. I trust however that you will be able to get them also to take steps at once to soothe Iranian susceptibilities. Attitude of Iranian Government throughout recent crisis has in fact been quite satisfactory from our point of view and that of Iraqi Government and it would be unwise of Iraqi Government to press demands on them without at the same time showing proper appreciation of this.

3. Is it not normal practice for new Minister for Foreign Affairs to send messages of greeting to other signatories of Saadabad Pact? It is surely particularly desirable that this should be done in the present case and also that new Iraqi Minister should take up his post immediately agreement is given and should take with him cordial message from Iraqi Government or letter.

484/19/41
16/41

TH/EI
RK
TU

INDEX

*He thinks J.E. spoke again
to M.F.A. about this
matter this morning?
H.A. 5/6*

Iran - Iraq Relations 213 | 1 | 41. 13
END

Burnt on 2nd May,

1941
